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Grove Press  
James J. Angleton, James**GROVE PRESS SUES CIA;  
ASKS \$10-MILLION DAMAGES**

Charging the Central Intelligence Agency with bombing, wiretapping and infiltrating its offices, Grove Press filed suit against the CIA in Federal District Court in New York on July 17. The complaint, filed on behalf of Grove Press, Barney Rosset, publisher and president, and Fred Jordan, senior vice-president and senior editor, seeks \$10-million damages from the Agency as well as additional damages from its officials. The 21-page complaint also seeks to compel the Agency to turn over to the court all records relating to Grove Press and its officers; a hearing on this matter was set for July 28. Peter Weiss, lawyer for the three plaintiffs, told *PW*: "The CIA has released some innocuous records, but has withheld the substantial part of them." Grove Press contends that the CIA is withholding files because they would reveal the Agency's actions to have been "improper, unlawful and criminal."

Mr. Weiss also said, "As far as we know, Grove Press is the only business to be identified so far as a CIA target."

"We believe our suit is an important one," Rosset told *PW*. "We are a free enterprise unit and it is against the basic concepts of our country to harass and attempt to destroy a company exercising freedom of speech and trying to make a living while doing it."

The complaint charges that the alleged actions of the CIA were designed to restrain the publishing activities of Grove. One of the charges is that on July 26, 1968, unidentified anti-Castro Cubans employed or controlled by the CIA bombed the offices of the publishing firm. Among the books published by Grove during the 1960s were "Fidel Castro Speaks" by the Cuban leader, "Revolu-

tion in the Revolution?" by Régis Debray and the diaries of Ché Guevara. Rosset said that at the time of the bombing, the cover of *Evergreen Review*, published by Grove, featured a portrait of Ché Guevara from which posters had been made, and that one of the posters hanging in the offices had been repeatedly stabbed.

*Evergreen Review*, which Weiss characterized as carrying "a constant stream of premature exposés of duplicity and illegalities on the part of government agencies," ran a series of articles on the Chicago Seven trial which, he believes, was one of the factors leading to the reversal of the ruling.

Weiss noted that the Rockefeller Commission report disclosed that the CIA had opened a file on Grove after its publication of "My Silent War" by Kim Philby, a British intelligence officer who turned out to be a Soviet agent. Weiss pointed out that the Philby book was the first to connect James J. Angleton, head of the counterintelligence division, with Operation Chaos.

Weiss also pointed out that Grove published titles identified with the black power movement of the 1960s, a target of the CIA's attention. These included Malcolm X's autobiography and works by Frantz Fanon and Imamu Amiri Baraka.

In its suit, Grove Press is also charging the CIA with wiretapping; mail watch and mail interception; "acts of impersonation and disguise to infiltrate, i.e., to actively participate in commercial and political aspects of the plaintiffs' domestic activities"; and the "forceful entry and search" of the New York apartment of Bea Losito, while she was employed as Jordan's secretary. The suit charges also that the Agency arranged covert financial assistance to private commercial book publishers, including Praeger, Inc., and Fodor, Inc., "known to be in competition in one or more lines of interstate commerce with Grove in the knowledge that economic injury or disadvantage" to Grove would result.

In summing up, Weiss told *PW*: "If people don't fight back against the kind of illegality government agencies engage in, the illegalities will continue. We regard this suit as a public service."

MADALYNNE KURTZ